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# Future Tense

The battle for minds underpins the public education funding debate

“What should education look like if we are trying to prepare people to be active participants in a democratic society? ... Education should not be about preparing us to fit into the world as it is. Rather, it should be about preparing us to imagine and create the world as it is not yet,” said Kevin Kumashiro, keynote speaker at the College of Education’s spring forum. For some, that makes public education “scary,” he said.

Kumashiro, former dean of the School of Education at the University of San Francisco, was one of four speakers addressing democracy, justice and the struggle to control public education. He asserted that, historically, those in power want to use education to shape students’ views. Paradoxically, schools often are where revolutions begin.

“One of the major roles of education is to challenge common sense [arguments],” which leaders often use to preserve the status quo, he said. Ideas that are “common sense” in one era often are outmoded in another. “What makes social movements so powerful is that they rattle and shift public consciousness and common sense.”

Current tactics such as school voucher programs and their cousins—education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarship programs and education-expense tax credits—stem from opposition to desegregation laws in the 1960s, said Cassie Creswell, co-executive director of Raise Your Hand Action, an advocacy organization. All these programs divert tax dollars into private institutions.

“The commonality here is that all of these [programs] are shrinking the available money that could be used for public schools,” she said. It’s significant that proponents never say they want to expand funding to cover new types of educational systems, she said; they’re always cutting up the same pie



Photo by University of San Francisco

Kevin Kumashiro, former dean of the School of Education at the University of San Francisco, argues that education should prepare students to create the future they want to see.

instead of making a bigger pie to help cover private schools.

“It’s one thing to talk about the right to public education. It’s another thing to talk about how you’re going to fund it,” said Brandon Johnson, deputy political director for the Chicago Teachers Union. Austerity measures and budget cuts are “allowing the market to dictate whether my child has a science teacher or a librarian.”

**Cheryl Flores (LAS MPA ’13)**, director of youth services and community schools for the Brighton Park (Ill.) Neighborhood Council,

joined the other speakers in urging voters to learn about the issues and get involved by calling legislators and joining action groups.

“This movement calls for bold, transformational activities that push us outside of our comfort zone,” Johnson said. “We have to codify some of this in law if we’re going to see the dramatic changes that we so desperately need.”

The College of Education organizes an issues forum each quarter. Find out about future forums at [education.depaul.edu/about/events](http://education.depaul.edu/about/events). Watch a video of this forum at [bit.ly/DePaulForum](http://bit.ly/DePaulForum).

Photo by George Hoyningen-Huene/  
Conde Nast Collection/Getty Images



Bobsy Goodspeed relaxes in her Lincoln Park apartment in 1934.

## Life in Art

Lecture sheds light on Chicago socialite

In a picture displayed during DePaul University Art Museum's annual lecture series "Art in Lincoln Park," a woman lies on a sofa reading a book in her Chicago apartment, which was designed in the 1920s by renowned architect David Adler. A portrait of the woman, painted by Bernard Boutet de Monvel, hangs above the sofa. But who is the woman?

Writer Geoffrey Johnson answered the question during his lecture, "Bobsy Redivivus: The Lost World of Elizabeth Fuller Goodspeed." Johnson wrote in a 2008 Chicago Magazine article, "Born Elizabeth Fuller in 1893, she flourished in Chicago between the two world wars when she was known as Bobsy Goodspeed, the bright star around which orbited plutocrats and politicians, painters, poets and pianists."

Johnson explained that his fascination with Goodspeed began when he was reading Janet Malcolm's "Two Lives: Gertrude and Alice," an examination of how Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas survived in France during the Nazi occupation in World War II. The book briefly mentions an unnamed Chicago woman. After extensive investigating, Johnson identified her as Goodspeed.

Goodspeed grew up in Evanston, Ill., attended boarding school in Paris and continued her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1916, she married Charles Barnett "Barney" Goodspeed. She was very

active in her community, running numerous fundraisers for organizations such as the American Red Cross and Illinois Children's Home and Aid and serving as the Arts Club of Chicago's president from 1932 to 1940.

The Goodspeeds lived in Lincoln Park. "The role she played not only served Chicago society, but it also had a significant impact on several local fronts in art, music and literature, impacting the course of modernism in Chicago. Her home served as a gathering place for friends, a showcase of her latest artistic discoveries," said Johnson. Stein and Toklas, whom Goodspeed previously met in Europe, stayed in her apartment numerous times between fall 1934 and spring 1935, and it was Goodspeed who introduced Thornton Wilder to Stein. Johnson said Wilder's was "Stein's most important literary friendship during the last decade of her life."

After her husband died in 1947, Goodspeed married Gilbert Whipple Chapman, a wealthy New York industrialist and widower, in 1950. She relocated to New York and quickly disappeared from the public eye. Before she died in 1980 at age 87, she donated four paintings to the Art Institute of Chicago: Marc Chagall's "The Circus Rider," Henri Matisse's "Interior at Nice," Georges Braque's "Still Life" and Pablo Picasso's "Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler." The latter two are dedicated in memory of her first husband, Barney.

## Stories That Matter

**DePaul University Trustee donates rare books**

The first book in DePaul Trustee **Arnold Grisham's (BUS '70, MBA '73)** collection was James Weldon Johnson's "The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man." Given to him by **John Motley (JD '73)** years ago, the 1927 text inspired Grisham to start his own book collection. In 2017, Grisham and his wife, **Jane Grisham (CSH '68, LAS MA '74)**, donated more than 500 volumes to the DePaul University Library.

The library's special collections and archives ran the exhibit "Stories Shared: Highlights from the Arnold and Jane Grisham Collection" last summer and fall. The display showcased rare first editions, texts inscribed by the authors and galley proofs (final draft copies). Included in the Grisham Collection are a first edition of former President Barack Obama's "Dreams from My Father" that Obama signed for Grisham in the White House and an 1895 edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which is the oldest book in the collection. A rare galley proof of Toni Morrison's "Beloved," which includes an inscription to the Grishams, also was donated.

To view some of the titles in the collection, please visit the digital bookshelf at [bit.ly/GrishamCollection](http://bit.ly/GrishamCollection).



Arnold Grisham visiting the collection last May.

Photo by Sandy Rosencrans



# DePaul Inaugurates Its 12th President

Religious, civic and community leaders joined members of the DePaul community and presidents and representatives from other universities for the inauguration of A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, as DePaul's 12th president. The Board of Trustees formally entrusted Dr. Esteban with DePaul's mission and presidential chain of office at the Nov. 19, 2017, event at Chicago's Navy Pier Grand Ballroom.

"While I am well aware of the challenges that lie ahead, I know DePaul will continue to thrive and prevail for the next 120 years and

beyond," Dr. Esteban said in his inaugural address. He cited strong partnerships with Chicago businesses and nonprofit organizations as one reason why he has confidence in DePaul's future. He also credited DePaul's faculty and staff for their dedication to the university.

He emphasized that DePaul is vitally important because of its distinctive place among U.S. institutions of higher education. "We serve students who want and need access to nationally ranked academic programs taught by



distinguished faculty who bring real-world experience to the classroom. We serve students who want an education that will prepare them not only for successful and fulfilling careers, but also for a lifetime of service to the common good," he said.

Dr. Esteban, who began his presidency July 1, previously was president of Seton Hall

University in New Jersey. He also has served as a provost and dean in addition to faculty appointments in Arkansas, Texas and the Philippines. He holds a doctorate in business administration, an MBA and a master's degree in Japanese business studies. Read Dr. Esteban's inaugural address at [bit.ly/EstebanAddress](http://bit.ly/EstebanAddress).

## Helmut Epp Retires

**There's nothing that Helmut Epp likes better than an interesting problem and the freedom to solve it.**



Photo by DePaul University

Helmut Epp worked at DePaul for more than 40 years.

"DePaul has always been fantastic, because it has far fewer obstacles to people doing things than most places," said Epp, who retired last June after nearly 43 years of service. In his wake lies an extraordinary array of initiatives that have transformed the university.

Epp was hired in 1974 as an associate professor of mathematics. He began tinkering with microprocessors, and one thing led to another: a new bachelor's degree in computer science led to a department of computer science and then the College of Computer Science and Telecommunications—now the College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM)—which he helmed for a decade.

He served as vice president of information services from 1996 to 1998 while remaining dean. He was named executive vice president for academic affairs in 2005 and became provost the following year, serving until 2012. Under his guidance, the College of Science and Health and the College of Communication were established, CDM grew to include three schools and more than 100 degree programs were created.

He advocated for extensive technological changes to help students, especially those who were immigrants, to navigate the university. "I could really identify with them," said Epp, who was born in the Soviet Union, immigrated to the United States from Germany at age 13 and never finished high school, although he has a doctorate in mathematics. "My background is not so dissimilar from the background of a lot of students who come here. It made me really enjoy working at DePaul."

For more about Epp's career, visit DePaul's Oral History Project, which contributed to this story, at [bit.ly/DePaulOralHistory](http://bit.ly/DePaulOralHistory).